VOL. 3

LIMP

MAGAZINE

MUSIC, ART & TOMFOOLERY FROM THE ILLAWARRA AND BEYOND

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Basil's Kite

Battlesnake

L.O.W

Lemonise

Sesame Girl

Skunk

Summer Guppies

Voltz Supreme

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GET A DOG UP YA

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COMICS • PHOTOGRAPHY • POETRY • REVIE

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SUPPORT YA LOCAL

EWS • MUSIC • INTERVIEWS • ART • WRITIN

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Archaeological evidence indicates that Aboriginal people have lived in the Illawarra for at least 20,000 years prior to the present day. That is a very, very long time. It is no secret that in this long history emerges the sacred stories, lore and knowledge kept by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and families.

I want to acknowledge that L.I.M.P. Magazine was created and that I live on stolen and unceded land. I also want to acknowledge the original musicians, artists and storytellers who came before us.

The traditional language of the Illawarra clans is Dharawal (or Tharawal/Thurrawal) and it is a local word that means "cabbage tree palm". The cabbage tree palm can grow to be very tall, and is a protected native species. It flowers long, white branched clustered panicles in Summer.

The seemingly unpredictable nature of the local weather is always a favourite small-talk conversation starter at the office. Here is an alternative annual seasonal calender that goes beyond Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

The Time of the Burran
(Kangaroo) **Gadalung Marool**
Hot and dry
January-March

The Time of the Marrai'gang
(Quoll) **Bana'marrai'yung**
Wet becoming cool
April-June

The Time of the Burrugin
(Echidna) **Tugarah Tuli**
Cold and frosty
June-July

The Time of the Wiritjiribin
(Lyrebird) **Tugarah Gunya'marri**
Cold and windy
July-August

The Time of the Ngoonungi
(Flying fox) **Murrai'yunggory**
Cool becoming warm
September-October

The Time of the Parra'dowee
(Eel) **Gooray'murrai**
Warm and wet
November-December

Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Vol 103, no 6274 (1877)

SOURCES:

D'harawal Climate and Natural Resources and *D'harawal Dreaming Stories* compiled by Dr Frances Bodkin and illustrated Lorraine Robertson.

Indigenous Weather Knowledge calender: www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/dharawal.shtml

Interview with Dr Frances Bodkin and an illustrated pdf poster of the D'harawal seasons: foodfairnessillawarra.org.au/dharawal-seasons-and-cycles

VARIETY PRINT MAGAZINE

LOCAL INDEPE-NDENT MUSIC PEOPLE.

WHO ARE YOU?

We are self-published variety print magazine open to submissions. We showcase local music, art, writings, comics and other quirky tidbits.

We value humour, sincerity, and passion. We value the underdog, the fanatic obsessive and the creative. We always prioritise unique, funny & interesting perspectives.

We embrace and celebrate diverse voices and the unique perspectives of all individuals that make up our community.

We believe in art made by real people with a soul. This is why we do not showcase visual art, music or writing that has been made primarily by AI.

HOW DO I SUBMIT?

Do you want to get published? If you are a muso, artist, writer or creative, use the form on our website to submit your work for a chance to be featured in the next print volume of L.I.M.P. Magazine. We also have a digital blog and can use social media to showcase and promote your creative work and events.

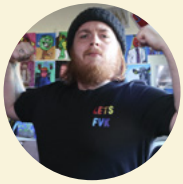
All accepted contributors receive a free printed copy. Content should adhere to the L.I.M.P. ethos.

If you have any questions or need ideas on what to submit, you can also contact us at limpzine@gmail.com.

Created, designed and published by...

EDITOR

Jess



IDEAS MAN

Corey

LIMPZINE.COM.AU

@limpzine

SICK LOCAL

BASIL'S KITE – CHEWING BREAD (DEC, 2024)

Listen on bandcamp

@basils_kite

I purposefully held off listening to this album until I was able to watch them perform it live.

I was able to do so in March 2025 at La La La's.

The show was lined up with G.U.N, POLTERGEIST 9000, BASIL'S KITE and SMALLWAYS. So I cruised on over on an orange city scooter listening to Basils classics like Dickbutt, Hodge's Sex Palace and Wiggle, pumped for a beer.

Now before I get into Basil's I just wanna say that all the bands were fantastic. The performances and music from everyone made my knees shake and I almost buckled from how much fun it was. It felt like it was a show curated for myself. Very refreshing for Wollongong. Love to La La La's for having it.

Basil's Kite played a new set with a new line-up and it was sick. Watching them play live made me realise I know absolutely nothing about music and I'm just a huge poser. Basil's Kite has evolved musically in a way that goes way beyond my comprehension.

I felt so awkward standing in the crowd trying to head bang along to a time signature I can't count on my fingers. Still, it was amazing and now I was ready to listen to "Chewing Bread".

My first initial thought was this album FUCKS! This is the kinda album to hold the door open for you then spank your ass as you walk past. Starts charming and inviting then looks you in the eyes and calls you by a different name. This is an incredibly strong album.

The song "Going Home" is a must listen! When I showed Jess this song she mentioned that it "scratched her brain" where "Pillar Men" melted it. There are hints of past Basils which makes this my new favourite album.

Basil's Kite being filled with undoubtedly some of the best musicians and songwriters in Wollongong makes them an extremely exciting band to follow. It's unpredictable what direction they will head next but you all better be watching.

Review by Corey McCrossin

TALENT

TRACKS ON ROTATION...

enby

Second single from the 20 year old, anonymous Wollongong based artist. Self described as “soft-core emo music”. This track explores gender and identity.

“The idea behind it was that the song would kind of have this pulse or flow, almost like fluid, to represent the fluidity I felt in my identity at the time- and then for it to kind of swell into this big euphoric outburst at the end, with all the melodies and instruments falling into a whirlpool of sound.“

SKUNK

@skunkispunk

Ruination

“The RUINATION EP is now online. 4 songs/9 minutes of power we are very proud of.”

New release from local heavy hitters who are well established in the local hardcore scene. Full of the usual highly anti-surf rock energy. Don’t miss their EP Launch on Sat 5 April, 2025 at Mary’s Underground.

L.O.W

@l.o.w_hc

Voltz Supreme – Undead West (official Videogame Soundtrack)

Undead West is a western themed roguelite bullet hell video game where the player uses an array of weapons, whiskey infusions and buffs gained from defeating bosses to complete each stage.

Voltz Supreme is a local Australian composer for games, film and ears. Check out his podcasts - voltzsupreme.com

VOLTZ SUPREME

@voltz.supreme

AN INTRODUCTION INTO DUNGEON SYNTH

Fellow adventurers, straddle your dragons and grasp your swords as we traverse through a magical world of fantasy, ambience and escapism. If you love video games, killing orcs and immaculate vibes then this is for you.

I first stumbled upon Dungeon Synth during a game of Catan and a mate suggested Tails Under The Oak - Swamp Kingdom. From then on board games and DnD sessions would only be accompanied by Dungeon Synth. I fell in love and it led me into a fae trap in which I still have not escaped.

As a newish genre you can trace its history back pretty easily to the early 1990s black metal ambient sounds with BURZUMs 'Prison albums' and the Mortiis demo. Yet right now more and more artists are releasing some fantastic albums and I personally feel like Dungeon Synth has only really begun to take off.

Quest Master, Erang, Fief, Hole Dweller and many, many others are releasing music and collaborating. (I have even begun to work on my own tunes.) The sheer openness, imagination and the ambiance of the genre allows the music to be so subjective to the listener and their own surroundings.

As I, for example, gallop through the enchanted forest on my black mane to attend to my medieval-ish duties (catching the bus to work every morning from 'Gong to 'Noona and back again) and have found myself soothed by the sounds of Ulk or Ziggurath as the gentle fae whisper in my ears (my Soundpeats Air3 wireless earbuds).

I love Dungeon Synth and I personally hope it takes off and we see more artists from Australia exploring this fantasy realm.

Written by Corey McCrossin
Illustration by Jessica Edge

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE MY MAGIC CLOAK - IF YOU DARE!

Begin your adventure into the world of Dungeon Synth. What you will find may please your ears. If you are feeling generous, consider throwing them a gold piece (buying the album on Bandcamp).

QUEST MASTER
The Twelve Temples

ERANG
Within the Land of My Imagination I Am the Only God

ULK
Ulk I

HOLE DWELLER
Flies the Coop

UMBRIA
The Entombed Wizard

THE HERBALIST
An Unexpected Forest Shrine

ZIGGURATH
Jungle Majesty

SUMMONING
Oath Bound

DREAM GIRL OF DREAM POP — HEATHER FROM SESAME GIRL

If Sesame Girl hasn't already been on your weekly repeat playlist for the past 4 years (???), then 2025 is the year to get acquainted with the bittersweet sounds of your new favourite band.

Heather Duncan, Josh Fogarty and Blake Bashfield are Sesame Girl. I had the chance to chat with lead singer (and angel!!) Heather to discuss the band, musical inspirations and relationship advice.

Was there a first moment you remember when you first fell in love with music?

I think it's different if you grow up with music a lot.

Did you?

Yeah my parents kind of played in bands and stuff like that, nothing serious.

Do you feel like it was kind of natural for you to be in a band?

Yeah, but I never really like got super good at playing.

But you like singing?

Yeah. The main thing that I like about it is songwriting. And I guess maybe that is the first sort of thing that I really liked about the first record that we made.

What about the process of songwriting? Do you find songs come easy to you?

Yeah. I mean, it's kind of weird. I used to only be able to like write stuff when I was sitting at my guitar. Now, I just kind of get ideas in my head, make a voice memo. That's pretty much how we wrote everything on the new record that we are making.

You're from Canberra originally. How has that been moving the band over? Has it been going?

It's a lot better. We really wanted to have community in Canberra but I think it's really hard. I don't know. We kind of felt like Canberra never really backed us. Not to say that there's not lovely people in Canberra that cared about us, but it's just like a really weird scene.

But it feels different in Wollongong?

The Gong is good, it has a gig going culture. Whereas Canberra, you kind of have to pull teeth to get people to care. It's very strange, it's random that Wollongong is like the small town and it has all this shit going on because of Yours and Owls. I think it's a really awesome spot for music.

Who are some your musical inspirations?

I think a big one for us at the moment is this band called Slow Pulp. We're all big fans. They kind of do a lot of like country kind of stuff, like slide and banjo kind of vibes. Yeah, we're really into the country. So yeah, they produce their own stuff, they just have all this really cool production. Every producer that we see is like, "you want me to try and make it sound like the coolest band, that's crazy..." And then another one, we're working with Simon Lam and he plays in Armlock. Yeah, we're really inspired by his stuff. But just generally, any cool girls doing music.

@rosemaryglenn

What's been your favourite gig performance?

Yours and Owls was really cool. That was a big crowd, a big moment. All the MAY-A shows that we did. That was really hectic. It was kind of like jumping from playing really small rooms to really big rooms. It's just super sentimental.

Did you have any sort of reference point for what you wanted the band to be, or has it kind of grown organically?

Yeah, it's always kind of changed. Each record that we do sounds different. I guess it is just genuine to what we like at the time. I had a big pop music phase. Now we're kind of into country and quieter, more chill music. I think that kind of influences what the band is gonna be. I think it's always been clear image wise. I want it to be kind of like hyper femme with a little bit of contrast and stuff. I'm gonna wear heaps of puffy clothes and makeup, and I'm not gonna shave and be traditional in that way. I feel like when young kids come and see us, they can see that there's not one way to like be a woman.

How do you feel when you're living that sort of image of yourself?

I think it does kind of help me. I'm very shy and weird and awkward. I think it helps to put on my costume almost and then I can step up to it a bit more.

I FEEL LIKE WHEN YOUNG KIDS COME AND SEE US, THEY CAN SEE THAT THERE'S NOT ONE WAY TO LIKE BE A WOMAN.

Kirsten and Heather eat Banh Mi's at East Corrimal Beach. The bench has been graffitied with "Fuck your life! Motherfucker!"

In your latest song 'not your bitch', you say "I am not your bitch, I am not your mum" and "I don't want to use two-in-one shampoo"? What advice would you give to anyone who's facing the misfortune of having a two-in-one shampoo partner?

I think two-in-one shampoo; it's like a scam but they're making less money. You know what I mean? I feel like it's a scam because it can't do two, it can't do two! So why do they make it? Yeah, why do they make it?

I think having a two in one shampoo, it's a red flag.

I don't know, just focus on yourself. I guess you know, as long as long as they're clean. Maybe it doesn't matter. Maybe I shouldn't be a bitch about it. Maybe some two-in-one shampoo partners are okay, just make sure they're clean. Make sure they use it properly.

A couple of lathers, at least.

Or you can just get your own conditioner.

That's good advice and I think whether in a relationship or whether you break up with them, focus on yourself.

Yeah, definitely.

What's in the future for Sesame Girl?

We're recording at the moment. I think it's just gonna be a long EP. I think it'll be sweet. It's kind of different from the other stuff, but I really like it. It's cool to, you know, like, do stuff that's rock and pop, but I have a very quiet voice, so it does help to pare it back a bit. Just focus on the writing.

That's what I enjoy most. It's been really cool the writing. I mean, I don't write I don't really write the guitar anymore. I kind of let the other guys do that. You know, how many songs can you put the A chord into the A Major? They just have to try and write interesting chords around, you know, if we're starting with a vocal idea then I just prefer them to do the chords and shit because they're better.

That's good, it's a collaborative sound?

Yeah, definitely collaborative. They're writing all their parts and I think it's really helpful for us to write with a producer too. Because we're kind of insane and we'll get stuck on something for ages. It's good to have someone to be like, "Okay, well, maybe we should move on from this idea that we spent four hours on and it's like one second of the song."

What's on your current playlist?

I have this playlist that I update all the time, 'my favorite songs in my whole life'. There's definitely some crazy shit on there but it's just stuff that I liked when I was a kid. I really liked the Sabrina Carpenter album, I really like Alex G.

I think both of them are really good writers as well.

For sure. Yeah, I'm gonna say something red hot, I think that Sabrina Carpenter wrote the best pop record out of the other pop girls.

Oh, my gosh.

I know. I think my like favourite band is this band Momma. Next one is Slow Pulp. Third is Clairo and then fourth is Neil Young.

You can catch Sesame Girl at SESFEST at UOW on 2 April as they perform with EGOISM, Creeping Jenny, Tallulah, Sevilles and Sover.

Interview by Kirsten Hammermeister
Illustration by Rosemary Vasquez-Brown

AMPLIFYING THE INDEPENDENT MUSIC SCENE FOR WOLLONGONG

In a world saturated with fleeting trends and mainstream media noise, One Vo11ume stands out as a beacon for independent music lovers.

Founded by Daniel Marskell in the vibrant community of Wollongong, One Vo11ume is not just another music promotion company—it's a movement dedicated to amplifying the voices of local and visiting artists who might otherwise go unheard.

At the core of One Vo11ume's ethos is a commitment to the music itself, generally promoters focus solely on events, where as One Vo11ume emphasizes the sounds that drive the scene.

Through curated playlists and immersive audio experiences, we bring fans closer to the artists, offering an audio showcase of the music before they hit the stage.

This unique approach ensures that attendees are not just there for a show—they're there for the music, and every artist involved, creating a deeper connection that will see them return to future events.

We recognize that independent artists often struggle to get their music and merchandise out to a wider audience. That's why we are building a comprehensive support system that includes merchandise inventory management in and out of events.

Our e-commerce platform provides artists with a low-cost, accessible solution to sell their merchandise, whether they're just starting out or looking to expand their reach. By handling the logistics, we allow artists to focus on what they do best—making music.

New music celebrations are another pillar of our platform. We understand the excitement that comes with a new release, and we channel that energy into our promotions. Whether it's a debut single or a long-awaited album, One Vo11ume ensures that every new release gets the attention it deserves. Our reviews are honest, thoughtful, and tailored to highlight the unique qualities of each artist, helping to guide listeners toward their next favourite track.

One Vo11ume is more than just a promotion company—it's a community of music lovers, creators, and supporters who believe in the power of sound.

By focusing heavily on audio sharing, merchandise support, and celebrating new music, we're building a space where independent artists can thrive, and fans can discover their next obsession.

Join us as we turn up the volume on the voices that matter most.

@ONE_VO11UME

1. Ben Morgan - Ocean Floor
2. Hein Cooper - Smokescreen (Shadow King)
3. Autumn Sunset - Walls of Glass
4. Azza D - Long Run
5. ixaras - shes already out the door
6. Quite Like Pete - Basement
7. CLUELESS - Liar Liar
8. Creeping Jenny - Kill Bill
9. Full Flower Moon Band - Illegal Things
10. Topnovil - Hit n' run
11. Radium Dolls - NAA
12. Rockafella - On the Lam
13. Sonic Reducer - STRUNG OUT
14. Beat 'em up Gently - Noah Purple
15. Streless - Away
16. Hytest - 9 Volt
17. Sort It Out - Same Old
18. Wesley Black - kids
19. The Summer Guppys - New Sensations
20. Airline - Magnify

BATTLESNAKE AT GONG CRAWL PHOTOGRAPHED BY

HALLIE ROLLINGS

@hallierollings

Take it easy
Froot Loop Sour
AAOH

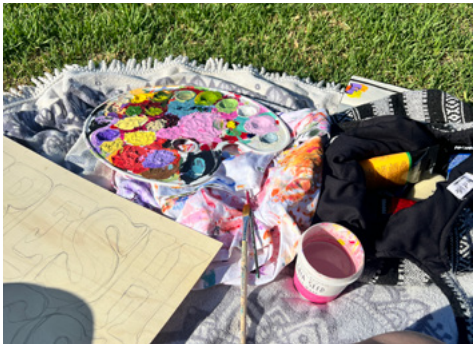
ARTIST SHOWCASE: BELLA TAYLOR

Hi, I'm Bella, the artist behind BBTdoodles. My work is a celebration of bold colours and vibrant energy, drawing inspiration from street art, pop culture, and the world around me. I love taking what I see in my mind and reshaping it into reality with a playful and unique approach. Art should evoke a feeling of excitement, and through my work, I aim to do just that.

A few months back I had the opportunity to sit down with Bella to pick her brain. Here's what I learned from our conversation:

INSPIRATIONS

* Cites artists Vexx and Gawx as her visual influences, as well as street art in Melbourne.
* Studies at UOW as a Media and Comms student. Collects and steals posters around UOW campus to stick to the walls in her room.
* High school teacher encouraged her to pursue art, and her goal is to make a living as a self-sustaining artist.



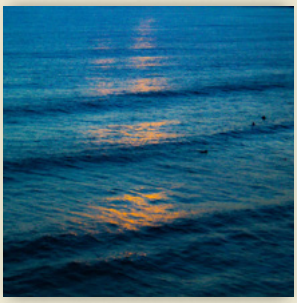
PROCESS

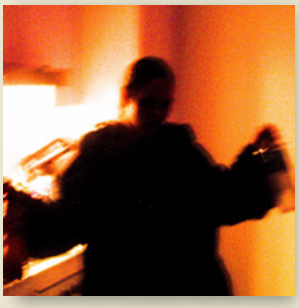
* Prefers acrylic paint over digital drawing, and finds the creative process relaxing and cathartic.
* Carries a moleskine sketchbook wherever she goes to doodle characters in, and uses a uni-ball pen.
* Enjoys taking a large canvas and painting materials out in public like to the beach.

EXHIBITIONS

* Has recently exhibited her art through Guest Gallery and at Gazefest, and is actively trying to get her art out there in real life - not just online.
* Bella's portfolio can be viewed at bbtdoodles.myportfolio.com or

@bbtdoodles





DEALER MAGAZINE

@deale.rmagazine

Dealer magazine have taken Wollongong/ Dharawal by storm with some recent promotional work for their upcoming inaugural edition: **CHOMPERS: The Bite of Life** (COMING March 2025).

Their aim – to provide a platform for expressions of youth – has captured some incredible young talent in Dharawal and surrounds. Keep an eye out on @deale.rmagazine for some magazine content teasers and unique, authentic, YOUTH!

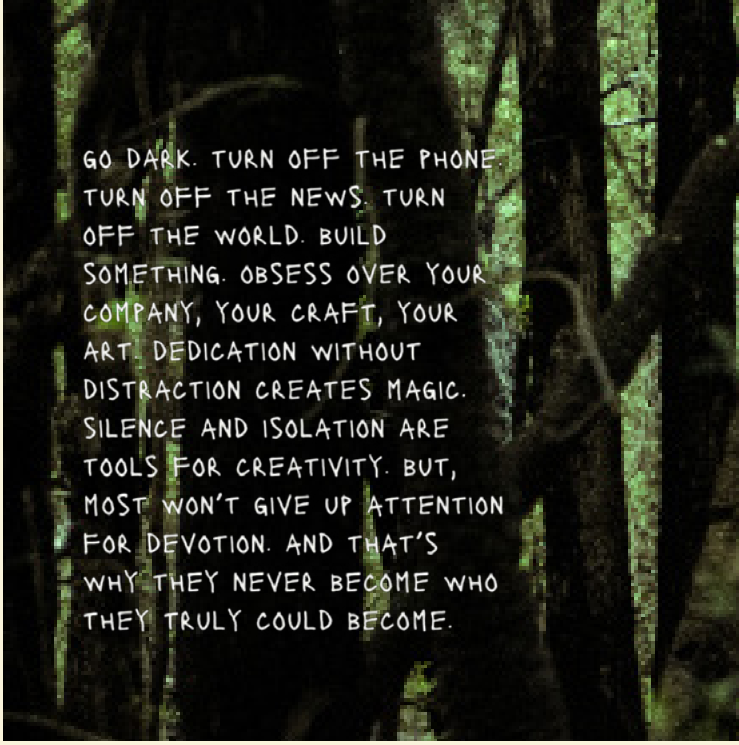
this letter will fall in love with you this year
Top 10 ways to spot a narcissist
TOTAL MIND CONTROL
me too
I think this date is going well
(101)
18·2·25
TAP here

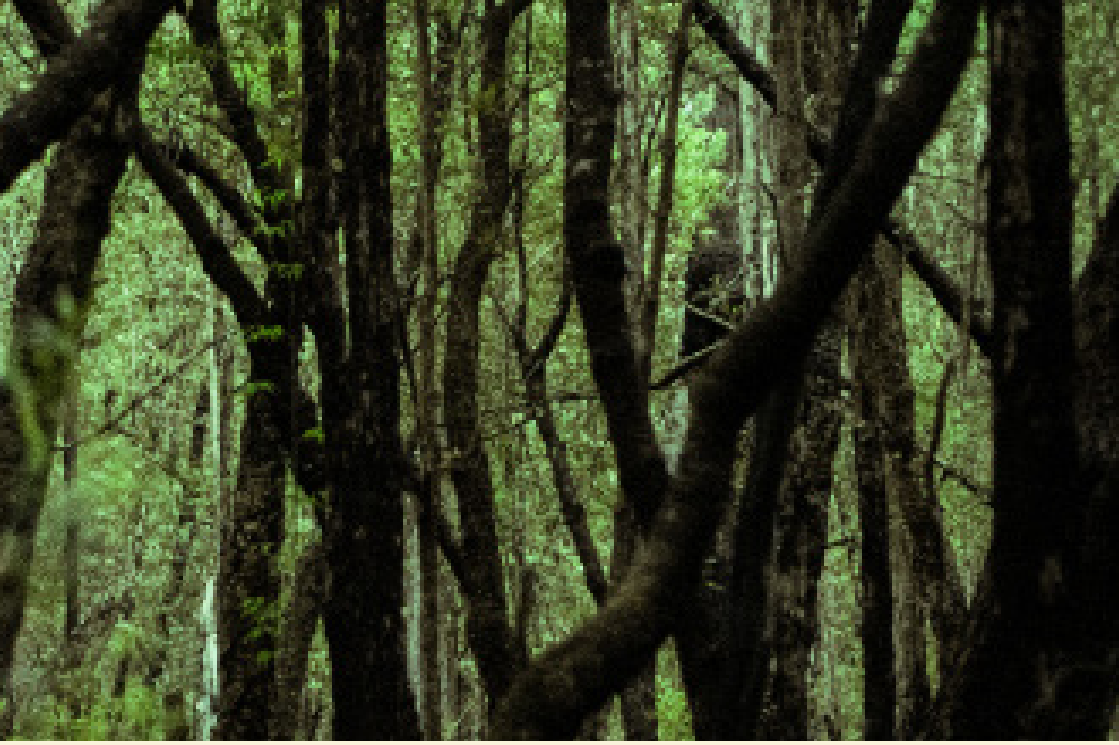
A PEEK 👀 INSIDE YANNI CVETANOVIC'S SKETCHBOOK

Recently I decided to get rid of my smart phone and social media, apps like instagram where consuming my time with reels and social obligations and the feeling of being available all the time. At first it was hard, but after a few days without it I suddenly had my motivation back and I have been making art daily, and outside of art, my real life connections with people outside of social media have strengthened and my over all out look on life has improved. I've never felt more motivated and focused in my entire life.

good
good
good
whats the plan
I MUST NOT FEAR
FEAR IS THE MIND KILLER
@animus.daydream
JUICY
BRO WHAT
TAP here
These lyrics dont make sense
Take a look at the evidence
18.2.25
1+8=9 2+2+5=9

@vje.studio


GO DARK. TURN OFF THE PHONE. TURN OFF THE NEWS. TURN OFF THE WORLD. BUILD SOMETHING. OBSESS OVER YOUR COMPANY, YOUR CRAFT, YOUR ART. DEDICATION WITHOUT DISTRACTION CREATES MAGIC. SILENCE AND ISOLATION ARE TOOLS FOR CREATIVITY. BUT, MOST WON'T GIVE UP ATTENTION FOR DEVOTION. AND THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER BECOME WHO THEY TRULY COULD BECOME.



Veronica Jamie edge

MAGAZINE PRESENTS...

WOLLONGONG ZINE CLUB!

Monthly open ended creative group

FREE ENTRY

(Donations accepted)

for lovers of papercraft, collage and journalling.

6-8PM

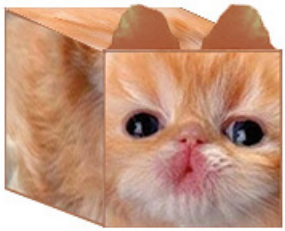
LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

27 FEB
27 MAR
24 APR
29 MAY
26 JUN

Crafting materials provided including a typewriter, scanner, staples, stickers...

BYO snacks and bevs

VAKO
CROWN ST
WOLLONGONG



PAPERCRAFT

INSTRUCTIONS

PULL OUT the centrespread of this magazine (pages 29 - 32)

CUT out the shapes of the critter cubes

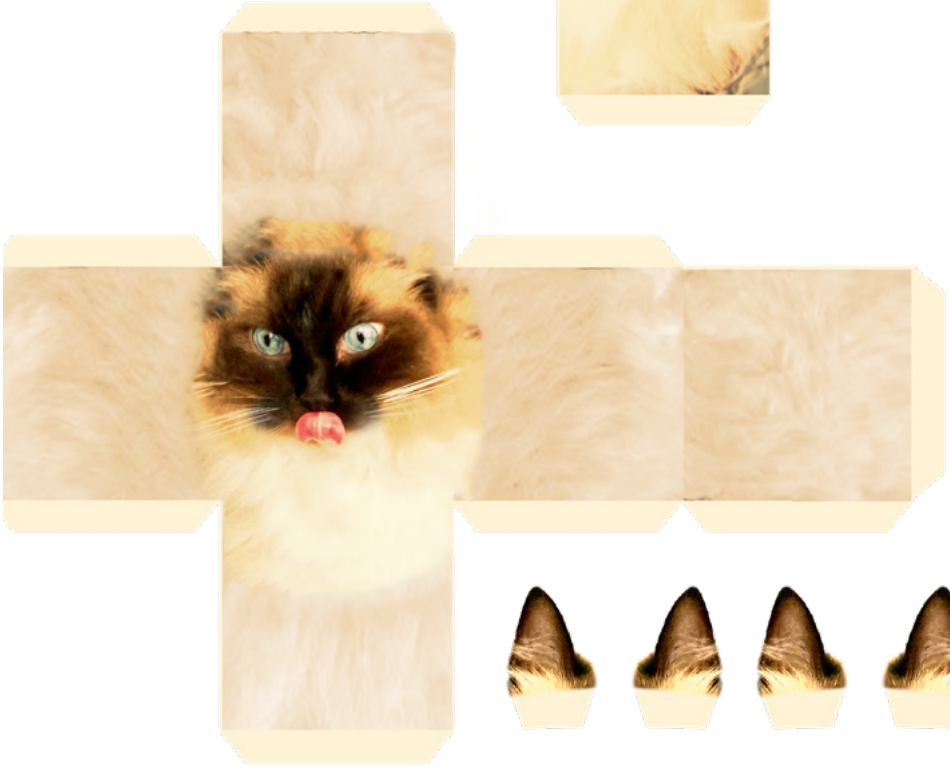
FOLD all of the colour tabs and edges

GLUE the tabs to form the shape

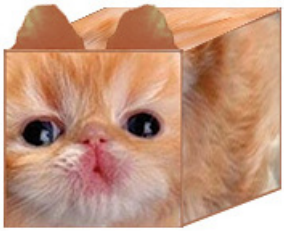
LENI

MOO DENG

SHERLOCK & WATSON



CAT EARS



PAPERCRAFT

INSTRUCTIONS

PULL OUT the centrespread of this magazine (pages 29 - 32)

CUT out the shapes of the critter cubes

FOLD all of the colour tabs and edges

GLUE the tabs to form the shape

VANQ

Cloud Catcher

She stared so long at the clouds

She and they became one

Drifting, flying all in one.

Soft to the touch but free.

She soared to the stars where she entered

A place so beautiful, so bright

She decided to stay. Where she became

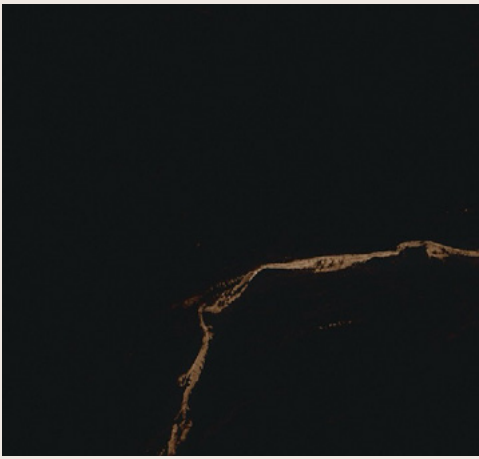
The bright star you'll see in the sky tonight.

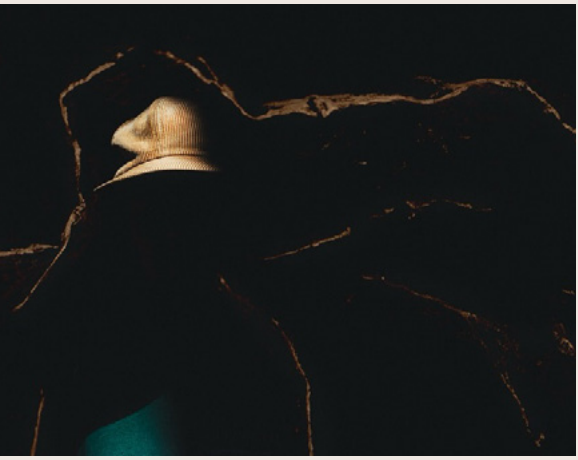
Look you'll see her shining bright.

Up above in the clouds, where she and they

Became one.

By Helena Konstandaras





Ben Broinowski has an impressive photography portfolio covering a wide range of genres. Recently, he has been primarily focused on contemporary abstract landscapes and seascapes; experimenting with light, printing and long exposure. But on his website (benbroinowskiphotography.com) you will find he is also no stranger to portraiture, fashion and street photography – just to name a few.

Helena Konstandaras models and styles the fashion in these creative collaborations, ever inspired by grunge and the avant gard. Recently, her fashion illustrations for a European designer exhibited at a local gallery. Her Instagram profile shows a particular focus on feminine portraiture and the exploration of her own identity.

This curated collection is the result of two highly devoted individuals often working in partnership. It barely scratches the surface of their constantly evolving craft, and we can't wait to see what they create next.

BENBROINOWSKIPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

@ben_broinowski_photography **@helena_k_makesart**

This oil on canvas still life explores past and present identity. The still life is of a Littlest Pet Shop that I adored as a kid, creating a nostalgic piece reminiscing a childhood in the early 2000s. I feel like this object represents how far I have come in life and how proud and astonished younger me would be if she could see this painting.

Humanities inherent yet complex relationship with nature is communicated in my painting 'Tiger Woman'.

The tiger humanoid is in a world of limbo not belonging to either species demonstrating the interconnectedness of humanity and nature and a rejection of anthropocentric philosophy.

Tiger Woman, acrylic on paper, 2024.

I am very passionate about accessibility in the art scene and believe that art scenes should become less institutional and should be a safe space that supports artists at all levels whether successful or emerging. I think that local emerging artists and art scenes should have more places to showcase their work and more opportunities to build community.

Acting on these ideas for a assignment I am currently curating a open house/shed exhibition for emerging artists in the Illawarra/ Wollongong area.

MOLLYROSE DUGGAN.COM

@molly.r.duggan

MOLLY ROSE

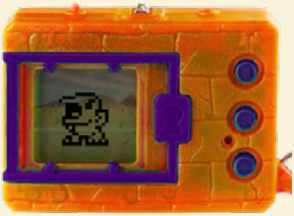
CHILDHOOD FRIENDS

Inspired by Molly Rose Duggan's Littlest Pet Shop painting we asked the contributors to this publication the question: Did you have a favourite toy growing up? If so: who or what was it?

Here are the results!

To a lot of people this would be described as a cursed toy and looking at pictures now it's terrifying but I loved it so much. It was a soft toy made of this itchy brown material. His finger would glow red and his neck would lift up and down. Because it had battery operated features it had the hardest plastic box in the middle of it so it was the most uncomfortable thing to cuddle but cuddle it I did. I ended up breaking its neck because I would play around with that feature too much and got a little rough with poor ET.

Rosemary



Corey

My favourite toy growing up was a purple teddy bear. I named him Purple Teddy in a spectacular display of childhood creativity. Groundbreaking! Truly. Words have never been my strong suit, always more of a visual thinker. Even little Bella was all about pictures over words. Some things never change.

Bella

I didn't really have a favorite toy growing up, but I was always more into tech gadgets, computers, and anything electronic fascinated me.

Ben

I had a cream bear called Morris who I loved to carry around with me and I used to sniff his paws!

Lucy

I didn't really play with toys, my art and writing were more entertaining to me haha :)

Brooklyn

Luke

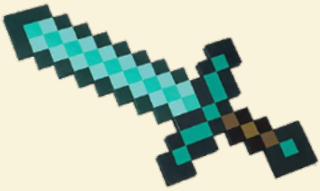
Zoë

When I was a kid I purchased a fantasy book from Scholastic and the book came with this necklace of a dragon with a gem. Nowadays I keep this dragon necklace displayed in my office.

Jay

I actually used to play a lot with art supplies and I used the house as my canvas. Mum would come back home to find my drawings EVERYWHERE. I even stained the bottom of her frosted glass dining table with markers that u can still see now! My mum was an artist so she made me a lil artist. I've grown up loving art from very young actually, I have like 32 drawing journals starting from the age of 9.

Helena



My parents hesitantly gifted me a foam Minecraft diamond sword for Christmas, with the fear that it would lead to other violent things later in life.

Lauren

Jess

Not exactly a favourite toy growing up but growing up in a Filo family, karaoke has always been a big part of my life. It was, and continues to be, my favourite way to 'play' so to speak, haha. I would sing at parties at our house, my mum's friends, after school and on weekends. And now every time I travel home (back to Queensland) I normally more excited to do karaoke more than anything else lol.

Kirsten

This is my little dog Shala that I took with me everywhere when I was a kid. She still keeps me company in my room as my little guardian.

Veronica

ADD YOURS HERE!

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD TOY...?

BROOKLYN MCDONALD

@milkncooties_art

CIRCUS
THE FIRE EATER
THE FOOL
LE CIRQUE
THE KNIFE THROWER
THE EQUILIBRIST
GENTRY BROS. CIRCUS
SELLS FLOTO CIRCUS
THE RINGMASTER
ATTRACTIONS
PRIZES
RIDES
GAMES
ADMIT ONE
COME ONE COME ALL
FRESH POPCORN

LAUREN LIM

This series of collages based on photographs of me intends to reflect my current struggle with working and thinking like a creative. I find it particularly challenging to enter a field that relies on my ability to think beyond the surface.

These collages depict my form either being torn apart or falling, in harmony with these bright, alarming colours and shapes. These elements help reflect the overwhelming and chaotic experience of reconstructing the way I see the world, and growing as a creative individual.

@onionlaurie

CALIFORNIA

COMICS

Wanna go out tonight?
Hell yeah!

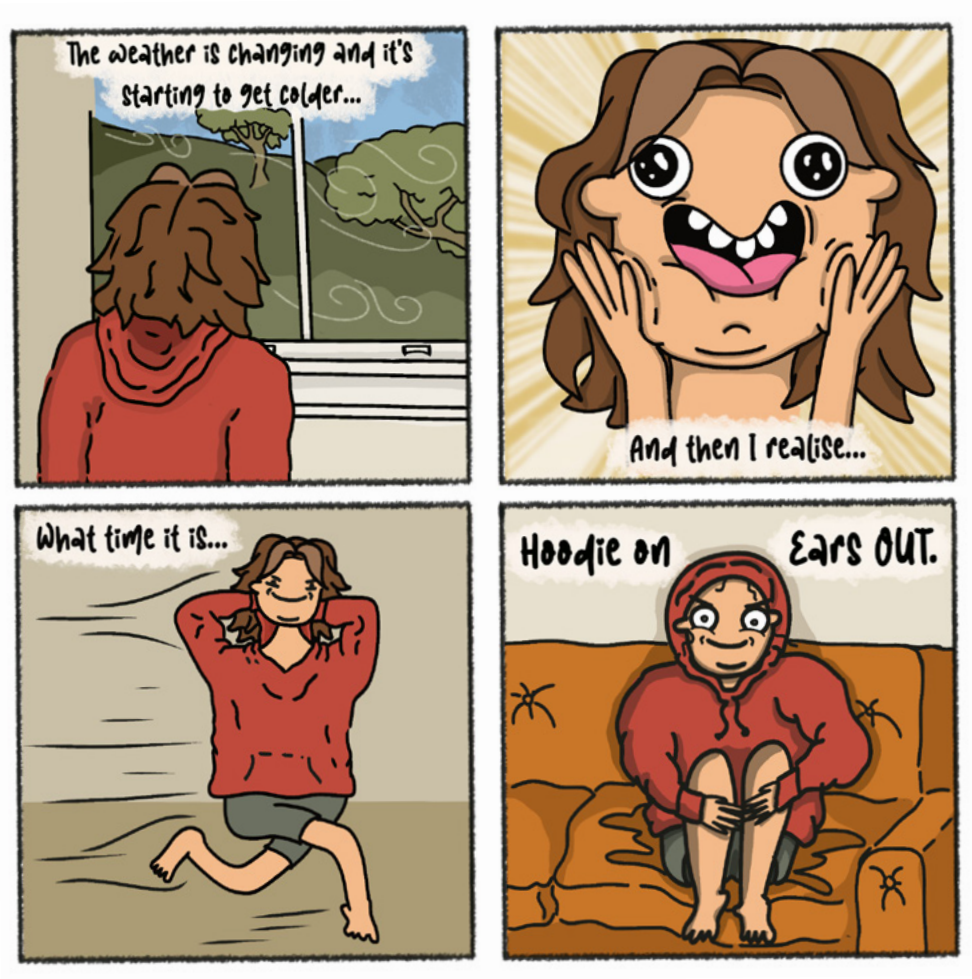
And then I put them through so much anxiety!
Fuck yeah you did!
Imagine being able to afford food in THIS economy!

You wanna go home?
Hell yeah.

Guess it's about time to fall into the void
Crushing thoughts about my insignificance and crippling depression

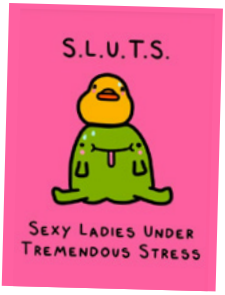
Not today, my child

The endless stream of podcasts I blast into my ears



DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

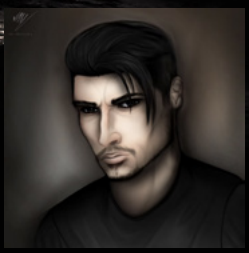
We love Lucy's playful illustration style and relatable comics. If you do too, make sure to drop a follow on the 'gram or visit Blue Dog (Posters and Prints) to purchase prints like these:



LUCY GREEN

@badbroidery

@jaymerrick.xv



Jay Merrick is a multidisciplinary artist living in Kiama. He is a writer, photographer, artist, designer, actor, and YouTuber – just to name a few of his creative pursuits. **Aurum Revenant** is the name associated with his projects, as well as his wolf emblem.

Jay has written five novels, and has recently published his first: **Shattered Prophecy**. If you are a fan of Star Wars, Dune, Final Fantasy, and The Lord of the Rings (especially themes of good versus evil and original songs) then this novel is for you.

The book is indeed in the sci-fi fantasy genre; a sci-fi setting but has fantasy elements and the supernatural. It's a story that deals with themes of overcoming guilt, learning self-forgiveness and self-love, inspired by my personal experiences. The story also explores topics such as friendship/found family, romance, light/darkness, depression, overcoming grief, and learning how to understand/emphasise with others.

The book follows the protagonist's life story from childhood, adolescence and adulthood. It has appeal for younger adults due to the story's coming of age themes, while also appealing to older adults through its other themes of grief, mental health and nostalgia for what once was.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CHOSEN ONE FALLS?

Once, a prophecy foretold the coming of Ashla Farron; destined to save the galaxy of Lorscaie. A prophecy now broken by her death.

A dark, malevolent presence now consumes Lorscaie. Corrupting, corroding every single planet, swallowing the sun whole over the course of the past decade, turning humans into violent monsters known as Shadow Entities. What remains of civilisation is now in disarray and there's only five days left until doomsday.

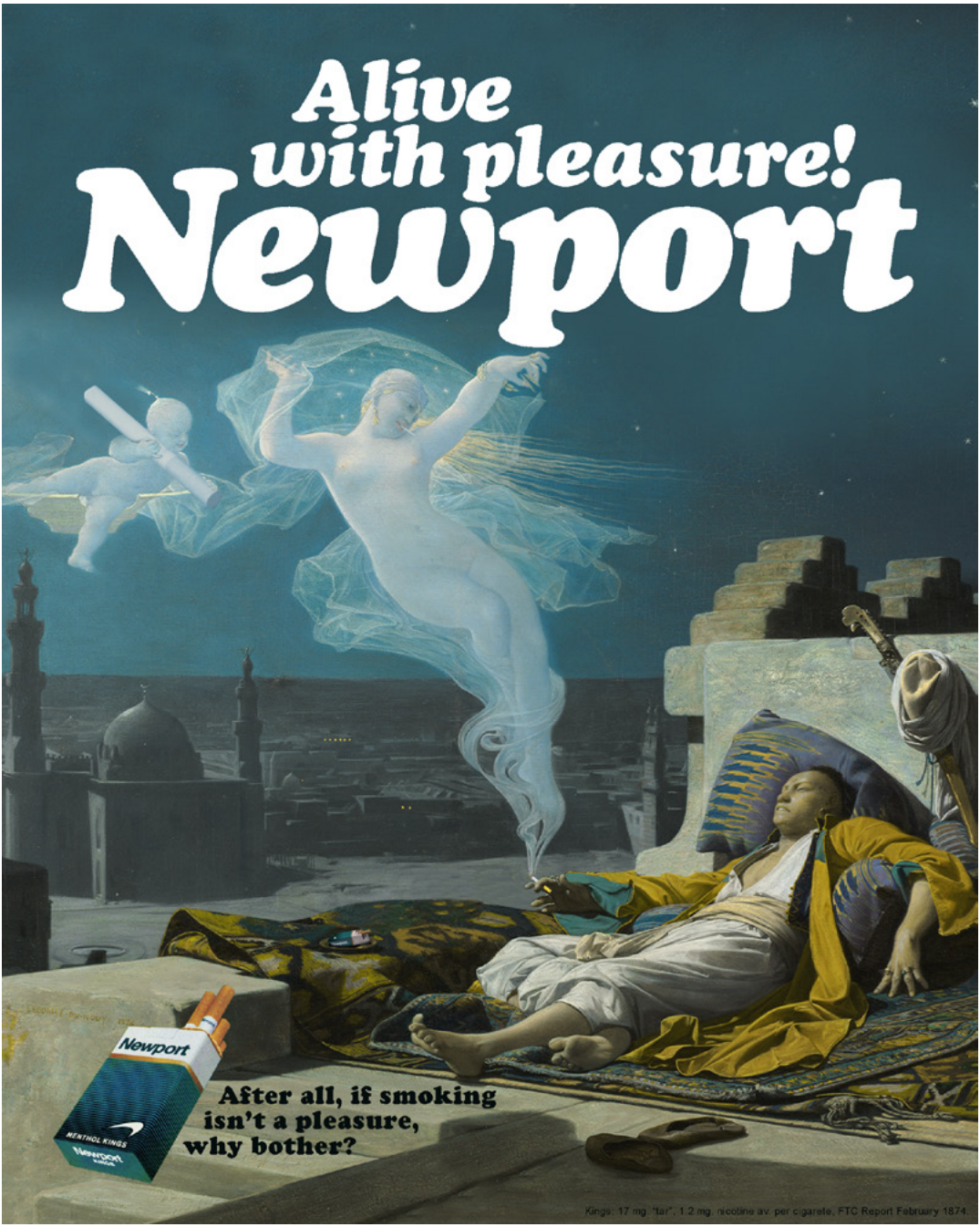
Gale Seraph; childhood friend of Ashla and later on in life her lover, played a key role in the prophecy. Foretold to be the warrior who would protect her until the day she vanquished the coming darkness, he failed in his task before she could fulfil her purpose.

Living with survivor's guilt and immense grief at losing the love of his life, Gale is burdened by the fact that the galaxy's doomed fate and the lives lost is all his fault. As the now broken man searches for a reason to continue living, he is found by Eva; a mysterious woman with an unknown agenda, claiming she knows of another way to save Lorscaie. But can she be trusted?

Gale must embark on an unexpected journey, overcoming his inner demons in order to save what's left of humanity, and himself, before the galaxy is lost forever.

Concept art, links to purchase and more information about the book and Jay's other projects can be found at

www.jaymerrick.com


Alive with pleasure!
Newport
Newport
MENTHOL KINGS
After all, if smoking isn't a pleasure, why bother?
Kings: 17 mg. "tar", 1.2 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report February 1874.

...A POSTER BY LUKE WESTBLADE

@yeahrightothen

THE BRIEF

I've always been captivated by vintage tobacco ads—their artistic flair, messaging, and the i-n-s-a-n-e way they sold smoking as a virtue rather than a vice. Over the decades, you can see a striking evolution in the advertising styles of major tobacco brands, from newspaper spreads touting superior filters, to just dudes riding horses. This evolution sparked my desire to delve deeper into the brands, their campaigns, the strategies behind them, and how government regulations pushed advertisers to become increasingly creative over time.

Alongside this curiosity, I have an appreciation for old paintings and a keen interest in creating digital posters (follow me brother @yeahrightothen). So, I decided to combine these interests into a personal project.

Create ten posters that recontextualize classic tobacco campaigns using historical paintings. Rather than simply pairing an old Marlboro slogan with a painting, I aim to align context, colour palettes, and generally make the artwork and tobacco elements complement one another. Basically, I want the posters to look like real ads. By designing these posters I get to learn more about each tobacco brand, their history, and the thinking behind some of their campaigns. At the same time, I get to research cool paintings (hell yeah).

One of the first additions to this series:

NEWPORT

In the 1980s, Newport launched a series of ads centred around "Pleasure" messaging, specifically targeting teens and young adults. The two primary slogans—"Newport Pleasure" and "Alive with Pleasure"— were the main focus of the campaign.

The slogan "Alive with Pleasure" provides the viewer with a subconscious health claim, suggesting that life and living are tied to smoking Newports. This messaging helps viewers forget about the whole 'Cancer' thing, whilst also portraying Newport cigarettes as fun, enjoyable and subconsciously sexy.

The models featured in these advertisements are often young, carefree, attractive, and doing some really cringe poses. These awkwardly staged images are designed to resonate with adolescents, normalising smoking in social contexts.

By combining these scenarios with reassuring slogans, viewers relate a pleasurable and healthy life with Newports. I liked the concept of Newports selling pleasure, packaged up and sold as a tangible product.

THE PAINTING

A Eunuch's Dream (1874) by Jean Lecomte du Nouÿ depicts a dreaming eunuch (who'd a thought) of a harem slave. His dream is materialised through an opium pipe he fell asleep smoking. Rather than having a cool, heroin-fueled dream, it's disrupted by a baby holding a knife dripping in blood. This signifies his unfortunate anatomy (google what a eunuch is), and how it prevents him from fulfilling his dream - being with this woman. This painting caught my attention because of the spirit/dream emitted through his pipe - as if it's responsible for its manifestation, not his dream. I like that.

THE POSTER — NEWPORTS ARE ALIVE WITH PLEASURE!

To use the painting how I envisioned it, it needed to be chopped up - I pulled the sky and spirits across to fit in a 4:5 frame. Of course, the pipe was replaced with a Newport, and the spirit was aligned to be emitting from its end. Eager to maintain consistent colours, I changed the eunuchs garments and surrounding carpet to feature more gold and dark cyan, resembling the iconic Newport packaging.

The slogan "Alive with Pleasure" takes a literal sense when contextualised with this painting. It implies that Newports are filled with life, the personification of pleasure - like a genie in a bottle, except it only grants menthols. In this case, pleasure is a woman, smoking a Newport, accompanied by a spirit-child holding a giant Newport.

If Newports did in fact sell Cigarettes that functioned like a genie in a bottle, granting your interpretation of pleasure, I'm sure this is how they would advertise it.

BOOK REVIEWS

PROJECT HAIL MARY BY ANDY WEIR (2021)

Genre: Science fiction

This was an absolute blast; I loved this book so much it has become one of my all-time faves.

If you loved 'The Martian' by Andy Weir, you will for sure love this. I admit I did like it better than the Martian.

A wild tale about a high school science teacher who wakes up in a different star system with no memory of how he got there. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species. The rest of the story is all about how he uses science and engineering to save the day. Without spoiling too much he does encounter a lovable ally.

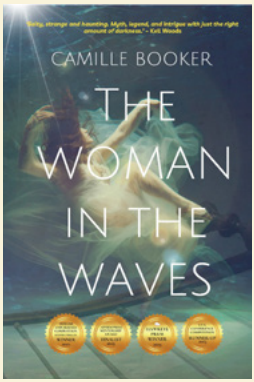
Rylands humorous nature makes this story shine.

Other recommended reads: The Martian by Andy Weir, All Systems Red by Martha Wells, The Long Earth by Terry Pratchett.

Review by Kristen Johnson AKA

LIBRARY MAMA

THE WOMAN IN THE WAVES (2025)



Genre: Historical fiction, Psychological thriller

There's something sinister lurking in the waves...

It's 1921 in Widow's Peak, a gloomy fishing village on the south coast of New South Wales. Nineteen-year-old Missy Green fills her days helping her fisherman father on his trawler, and spending time with her grandfather, the town's reclusive lighthouse keeper. It's a dreary existence. Everything in her sea salt-soaked life is upended, though, when she glimpses something in the water – a mermaid ominously staring at her.

The Woman in The Waves is a historical fiction, psychological thriller depicting motherhood, mental illness and life after World War I. It is the second novel from Australian author Camille Booker and was published last week on March 11 by Hawkeye Publishing.

I got the chance to chat with Camille about her new book, changing careers, her inspirations and where to find stories as a writer.

Read the full interview by Kirsten Hammermeister at 'Tell Me About It' on Substack.

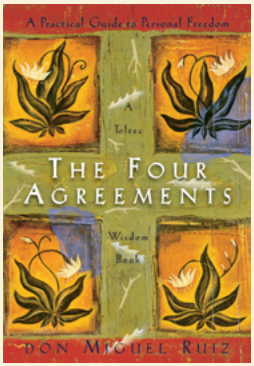
THE FOUR AGREEMENTS
A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PERSONAL FREEDOM
BY BY DON MIGUEL RUIZ (1997)

Genre: Self-help, Spiritual

While this book is a short book, it is heavy in words. At times I struggled to read as it was a lot to absorb. I found there were cliches in almost every line, but the meanings did ring true for me.

I put a conscious effort into applying the agreements into my own life. They are: 1. Be impeccable with your word. 2. Don't take anything personally. 3. Do not make assumptions. 4. Always do your best.

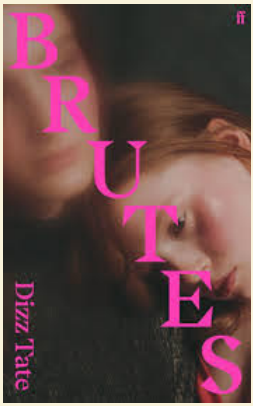
While reading I took notes. I also wrote the agreements in my journal as a reminder. I immediately felt the benefits of these beliefs when I worked through them in my own life. An old memory was bothering me, but my perspective changed when I truly learnt how to 'not take anything personally'. This second agreement reminded me of the lessons also taught in "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie (1937).



I would suggest reading this with an open mind ready for religious imagery and metaphors. There are references to heaven, hell, and black magic. I disliked the examples he chose to give about the power of manifestation (cancer) and the power of the word (Hitler). I thought they were too extreme of examples, but they were not discussed at length.

Overall I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested!

Review by Jessica Edge



BRUTES BY DIZZ TATE (2023)

Genre: Coming-of-age, Suspense

The thought of rereading a book bores me. I know what each character will do and I know how the story ends - so why bother?

That is what I thought, until reading Brutes. This novel took me through a whirlwind of emotions and defied my expectations of it completely. Written carefully in a chaotic manner, I was captivated and unable to put the book down. I've read it twice now and I am going to read it again.

This novel is a dark and absurd mystery that beautifully captures the glory of girlhood. It tells the story of a group of young girls who are stuck in a small town in Florida who want to escape and make a name for themselves. They are constantly challenging one another yet simultaneously develop an unbreakable bond while they uncover secrets in their town and cope with the disappearance of one of their best friends.

I personally loved this book because the storyline is over the top making for an entertaining read, and each character is intense and unique and extra, allowing me to find a way to relate to them all.

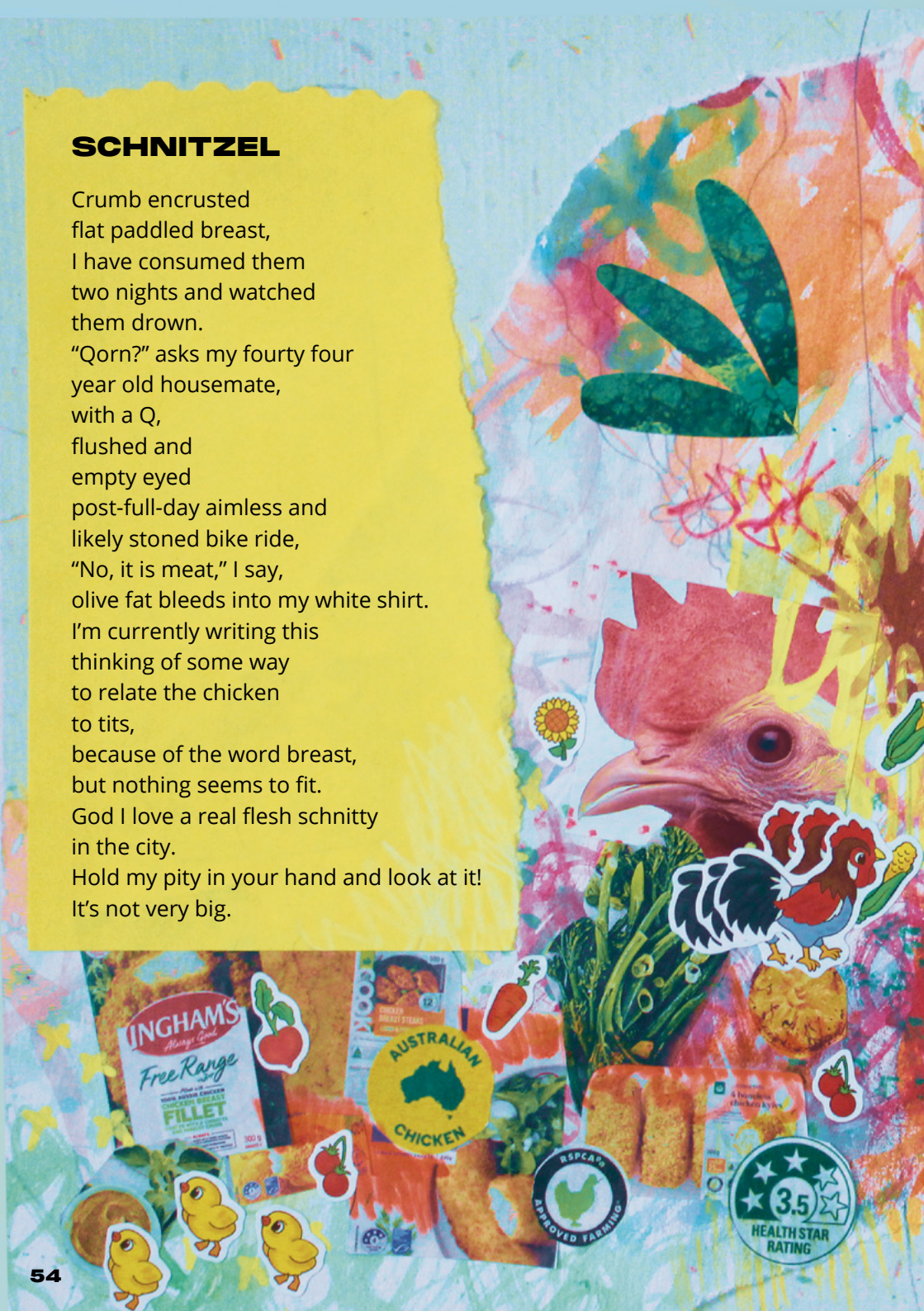
With a compelling descriptive narrative that doesn't feel excessive or unnecessary, I was drawn in to every single scene. I believe that even if you don't like mystery novels, or you're not a girl/ if you think the concept of girlhood would bore you, everyone would enjoy this book because it is a truely fascinating read.

Plus, you don't have to relate to every book you read, it's fun gaining new perspectives on life through unique characters.

Review by Zoë Phillips

SCHNITZEL

Crumb encrusted
flat paddled breast,
I have consumed them
two nights and watched
them drown.
“Qorn?” asks my fourty four
year old housemate,
with a Q,
flushed and
empty eyed
post-full-day aimless and
likely stoned bike ride,
“No, it is meat,” I say,
olive fat bleeds into my white shirt.
I’m currently writing this
thinking of some way
to relate the chicken
to tits,
because of the word breast,
but nothing seems to fit.
God I love a real flesh schnitty
in the city.
Hold my pity in your hand and look at it!
It’s not very big.



I pretend to care that I
am meat or it is meat or my feet are meat
when the street is eerily quiet?
Lurking pools of virus
gather under the wheels of my
forty four year old housemate's bicycle,
his grey gollum body simply teeming,
and I have become a flesh monster?
Why I got to justify my dinner to
this tiny pale faced moon?
What is really made of you?

Collage by Jess Edge
Poem by Kim Carlaw

@kiimdred

@digitalarchetype.jpeg

HOROSCOPES

♈ ARIES

When walking on a dirt road always be wary of strange looking travellers, they could mean you harm. Look behind you now. The strange figure can see you sneeze. Avoid for the following week: sugar, salt, water.

♉ TAURUS

The road to success is always under construction... who the hell hired this guy? Your life has been a mess since construction began. You gotta fire this dude and take control of it yourself.

♊ GEMINI

A long jump is a short walk. Things that are a gap in the fence away are closer then you think. Eat more, drink more. DO EVERYTHING MORE!

♋ CANCER

Listen to your heart when he's calling for you. Listen to your heart, there's nothing else you can do. I don't know where you're going and I don't know why but listen to your heart before you tell him goodbye.

♌ LEO

Next time a cat crosses your path bop its nose THREE times to make sure it knows you are a friend. If it dances around your knees you have done this correctly. Magical number 37.

♍ VIRGO

If offered gold or an apple. Take the apple and plant the seeds. Grow the trees and you will have many apples. Sell the apples and get gold. Offer a young lad gold or a apple. You see?

♎ LIBRA

The voices in your head are correct. You are doing everything wrong and people around you notice. They perceive you at all times. Isnt that a scary thought? The colour blue is your friend and the number 14 is not.

♏ SCORPIO

Dun dun dun-duuuun dun. Now you see what-snakessss see. What the hell does that mean? What are the gods talking about? Lucky number 6.

♐ SAGITTARIUS

If offered gold or an apple. Take the apple and plant the seeds. Grow the trees and you will have many apples. Sell the apples and get gold. Offer a young lad gold or a apple. You see?

♑ CAPRICORN

Every stepping stone may sink beneath your feet. Yet you will only get a little wet. Dry off and try again. Wear a lot of pink and only drink water. Lucky number 34, 15, 3, 56.

♒ AQUARIUS

Music will be your friend, when things start to take a bend. Turn it to 11 and brace yourself for the night. As long as you are cranking something as hard and loud as you can. All will be well.

♓ PISCES

Don't worry about it. no, really. It's fine.

GOODBYE

Thank you to all our friends and family for the support!
I love you forever Mum.

Thanks to the beautiful city of Wollongong, the dive bars, the gig-goers, the underdog, the fanatic obsessive and the creative.

And finally, thank you for your patronage of our little publication.

x Jess

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